



U.S. Congressman

DUNCAN HUNTER

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Federal Budget Update



Hunter Opposes Raising Debt Limit to Fund Government Expansion

The national debt limit is intended to prevent excessive federal borrowing and spending. In other words, it was created to impose fiscal accountability in government.

In 2009, federal debt levels reached record levels, coinciding with a sharp and sustained increase in the national unemployment rate. Especially now that households and businesses are cutting costs and making tough choices, Congressman Hunter believes government should always lead by example and do the same.

Unfortunately, the majority in the House of Representatives voted to increase the national debt limit to \$12.394 trillion in order to compensate for more than \$1.4 trillion in deficit spending over the last fiscal year.

Congressman Hunter opposed this legislation, *H.R. 4314*, and continues to advocate for responsible budgeting practices and funding priorities.

Budgeting Toward Fiscal Responsibility...

Over the course of last year, Americans witnessed unprecedented increases in federal spending, current and projected annual deficits, and the national debt. But as families work harder and budget more responsibly, the federal government is doing just the opposite. Simply put, Congress is spending money it does not have.

“Congress must take immediate action to bring the federal budget under control,” said Congressman Hunter. “We cannot spend taxpayer dollars without restraint and expect that future generations will resolve the unfortunate debt burden created by today’s leadership. We must rein in excessive spending by making tough choices and promoting fiscal discipline at every opportunity.”

There are only a few options to recover the revenue needed to finance government expenditures. These options include raising taxes or borrowing more money from countries such as China. The most simple and available solution is to limit federal spending and take sensible steps to reduce national debt levels – the approach favored by Congressman Hunter.

The following bills are just some of the initiatives supported by Congressman Hunter to better control federal spending:

- *H.R. 4262* – Mandate a 2/3rds vote to raise the debt ceiling;
- *H.R. 3140* – Repeal the spending portion of the stimulus package;
- *H.J. Res. 1* – Implement a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Congressman Hunter voted against, *H.R. 3288*, the Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act consisting of six separate annual spending bills, because it increased discretionary spending by 12 percent.

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